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Waving goodbye to Winter

Spring Splash returned with a resounding splash for some competitors and smooth sailing for others like this triumphant participant who cleared the water at the bottom of Cash Register at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride in Eagle Lake on Saturday, March 26. There were 40 contestants, who attempted to cross the pool of frigid water for the annual event to end the ski hill's season. Other features of the day were the Spring Splash costume contest, the rubber ducky race, and area musician Carl Dixon performing in the chalet at the end of the day. See more photos on page 10. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography on Facebook)

Health unit reports first influenza case in two years

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District (HKPRD) health unit press conference held virtually on March 23 with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking and a press release issued March 24.

The first lab-confirmed case of influ-

enza in the region in the past two years was reported last week, after no flu activity was reported in the HKPRD region during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

"Typically, we have many more influenza cases in our region much earlier in the flu season, but this is something else that the pandemic has turned upside down," said Bocking in a press release. "Given the prevalence of COVID-19, especially the highly-infectious Omicron

variant, it's little wonder that influenza has been crowded out over the past two winters."

Public health precautions including masking, distancing, and limits on gathering to stop the spread of COVID-19 have also helped to limit the spread of other respiratory illnesses like influenza, she said.

With influenza now circulating in the region and most COVID-19 restrictions

lifted, the health unit encouraged area residents to keep up their efforts to stop the spread of illness.

Minden vaccine clinic closes

The Minden vaccine clinic closed on March 24, after more than 60 clinic days. see **MORE THAN** page 2

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Keeping climate change crisis upfront

DARREN LUM

Editor

A cool wind, with falling snow did little to diminish the heat from the fervor expressed by protesters, who gathered at the locomotive landmark in Haliburton last Friday to take a stand against the inaction by policy-makers and world leaders to help resolve the climate change crisis and prioritize #peoplenotprofits.

Locally, this protest was organized by the Environment Haliburton! (EH!) and Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County (CCHC), but was part of the Global Climate Strike protests held throughout the world by Fridays for Future.

This effort is looking for an actionable resolution to the climate change crisis, but are also interested in protecting species and biodiversity, stopping colonization and retail sale of Indigenous, ancestral lands to drilling and mining corporations for extraction of fossil fuels, reparation of land and funds to Indigenous people, increase funding for adaptation to climate change and reduce CO2 emissions.

EH! vice-president Terry Moore said the protest in Haliburton was about raising awareness of the climate crisis.

"Well, I think that it's really important that every community tries to stand up and support Friday's for Future. This is a global problem. We have one atmosphere and we all have to be part of the solution. So, it's really important for us to be out here today," he said.

Moore said he is also a member for Seniors for Climate Action Now, an organization to express inter-generational support for the next generation who will inherit the Earth. Born in 1949, Moore said he feels an obligation and guilt to help the next generation with resolving the damage after damaging actions taken in his era, which is related to the of the environmental issues of today, which left the atmosphere compromised.

"As a generation, my generation is leaving a huge mess that future generations are going to have to ... take the lion share of the responsibility ... when the stuff hits the fan is going to be dying. Not mine," he said, referring to rising emissions.

"I feel a responsibility for that. I got grandchildren. I got children and I don't want to pass on a legacy for them that's going to be poisoned," he said.

The grandfather said his consciousness for action was raised started during the 1970s when he was in university, which at the time coincided with the start of the environmental movement.

Close to two dozen protesters showed up, but to those that attended the hour long protest said it's not about the numbers, as it is to keep the momentum going to keep the climate crisis in the public.

"Anybody showing up is good for me. It's not about total numbers. It's about, really, can we build commu-



Protestors for climate change action stand together, hoping to raise awareness of the environmental crisis facing society during a protest on Friday, March 25 in front of the locomotive landmark in Haliburton. Organized locally by Environment Haliburton! and the Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County, the protest was held as part of the Global Climate Protest organized by Fridays for Future. /DARREN LUM Staff

nity support? Yeah, I think there's a whole bunch of people in this community who would really want to see robust climate action and are pissed off that its not happening," Moore said.

He added there are polls that suggest that more than 75 per cent of Canadians want to see climate action.

Greg Roe of CCHC shared the same perspective as Moore related to feeling a need to do something, which started during the 1970s when he recognized the climate was changing, but added, "Why are we here locally? I keep asking myself. And, I think there's an adage that people need to hear or see things three times before it even registers. [They think] maybe that is real. Maybe there's something I should do[about climate change]."

He said one thing people can do to help is to not let your vehicle idle.

"A simple thing like that. Shut off your vehicle and you're helping to support the planet," he said.

Roe adds he is purposeful with his drives to town, thinking of how to do more on a trip so he takes less trips with his vehicle.

This coming election is an opportunity for the public to ensure the climate change crisis is addressed by policy makers, Moore said.

"We got an election coming up in June 2. We got a government that's nowhere on climate, less than nowhere, and, so, we got to deliver a message to our political leaders that we want to see real concrete action, not bogus climate plans, but real climate actions. So, we got a chance to say something about that on June 2.

More than 200 volunteers helped at clinic

from page 1

The mass immunization site opened on April 7 last year and more than 12,000 people – up to 500 a day at times – attended at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at first, and then the community centre. In total, more than 15,300 doses of vaccine were administered by health unit staff with support from more than 200 volunteers, led by the Rotary Club of Minden.

"A very tremendous thank you to all of the partners who have made those mass immunization clinics so effective," said Bocking. She thanked the numerous volunteers and municipalities who have supported the clinics. Vaccinations are still available at mobile clinics, pharmacies and from primary care teams as well as at school-based clinics.

Slight increases in COVID activity

A number of indicators are showing COVID-19 stability, said Bocking, with about 15 to 20 new lab-confirmed cases each day at the health unit. Bocking said those cases were "the tip of the iceberg," as PCR testing is lim-

ited. At the time of the briefing there were two outbreaks ongoing at a group home and correctional centre, and there had been six hospitalizations over the past 14 days.

"So those three indicators are staying stable over the past two weeks," Bocking said. "We do however have two indicators that are demonstrating a slight increase in activity."

Bocking said the test positivity had increased very slightly and was close to 10 per cent last week, compared to eight per cent but not as high as 20 per cent that had been seen. The health unit's wastewater surveillance had indicated increased viral activity in sewersheds in Lindsay and Cobourg, though not as high as during the Omicron wave. Bocking said there is a four to five day lag from when samples are taken and when results are reported in the provincial database.

The slight upticks are similar to what is being seen elsewhere in the province and aren't surprising given measures having been lifted in the province, said Bocking.

Bocking said the BA.2 variant is slowly becoming the dominant variant in Ontario. Very few cases in the HKPR region have been identified as the BA.2 variant,

she said. The BA.2 variant is more transmissible than the Omicron variant but like the Omicron variant is resulting in less severe outcomes, said Bocking.

Boosters still recommended

Regarding booster doses, of those aged 70 and older, 86 per cent have received their booster dose, while of those 50 and older, 73.6 per cent have received their third dose of vaccine and of those 18 and older, 60.8 per cent have had their booster.

"I've [been asked] some questions about whether or not a booster dose is still worth it at this time, people feel that the Omicron wave is over, public health restrictions have lifted, mandates for masking and vaccination have lifted so why the need for a booster dose?" said Bocking.

She said boosters are still encouraged as Omicron is still circulating, and there will be more infections with the BA.2 variant circulating, as well as it being unclear what will happen next with COVID-19 spread in terms of other variants.

Making Dreams Come True invites requests

DARREN LUM

Editor

Finding that perfect formal ensemble for the upcoming graduation this year is closer than you think.

After eight years, the Make Dreams Come True initiative continues to be a service for anyone interested in acquiring everything from dress shoes, pants, dresses, shirts, suits and ties for no cost in Haliburton County.

It's all a credit to the passion of its co-founder Jenn Abbott and the support of the community.

Abbott is proud about the longevity and has always believed in providing this service to anyone that need and want it.

"I like to get to be able to give back to the community and I think that helping kids, you know, in our community is a big thing. Especially, with how kids had a really hard time with COVID and I still kept my services open to kids that wanted an outfit, whether they needed one or not," she said.

Abbott adds she's helped some young people, who just needed a formal ensemble to look good for a social event of significance to them. This effort for the mother of four said the Make Dreams Come True service has value for the recipients, and giving back has its rewards.

"But it is nice to see the smiles on the kid's faces when they come and pick up their outfit. It's nice to get pictures of them and their outfits that you chose for them ... so it warms your heart," she said.

She's been led to believe graduations



Make Dreams Come True has been going for eight years and Jenn Abbott, who has been there since the start, invites anyone who wants formal attire to contact her. /Submitted by Chantal Smith

will be held this year and is hopeful to help those students locally who would otherwise have to travel out of the community to purchase formal attire.

None of this effort would be possible without the support of the community she said.

This includes donations from residents, who have ensured there is a collection available to give people. Abbott said she welcomes donations, whether they are dress suits, dresses, formal shoes for men

and women.

"I'm happy to take them off your hands," she said.

Facilitating this service alone, she said, the condition of the donated clothing needs to be ready to wear.

Unlike other years before the pandemic when there was a location for pickup, she's arranging pickups for those interested. People can get a bag of clothes, and then try everything on and see the clothing at home. Whatever isn't wanted can

be returned.

Anyone interested in receiving help are encouraged to contact Abbott by phone or through Facebook, which she prefers. She encourages requests be made sooner than later in the school year to ensure she can fulfill specific demands. Include details such as size, colour preferences, and photo examples, which depict ensembles or styles of clothing.

Photos to commemorate the occasion are possible, with the ongoing offer for a portrait session from local photographer Chantal Smith, who has provided her services since the Make Dreams Come True started eight years ago.

Hundreds of people have been recipients of Make Dreams Come True and Abbott wants more to benefit. She said this service is for anyone interested in formal attire, which is in some cases are brand new with the price tags on still.

She hopes after all the years that the public knows this service is open to everyone, regardless of economic need. It's all about giving an opportunity to gain access to formal clothing in the community.

"I can't change people's minds. I mean, I just put it out there. You know, people that are on my site get to see the girls and the dresses. They don't look like your hand me downs. They don't look like they've been used," she said.

Those interested can call Abbott at 705-286-0906 or message her through Facebook at her personal account (www.facebook.com/jennifer.abbott.12) or Make Dreams Come True.

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Artistic talents showcased

Camexicanus assistant director Darian Maddock addresses the audience at the debut of the short 15-minute film *Creative By Nature* on Saturday, March 26 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum in Haliburton. *Creative By Nature* was produced by Maddock and Camexicanus founder Greg Sadlier.



Cassidy Taylor sings at the Camexicanus event to debut their short 15-minute film *Creative By Nature* on Saturday, March 26 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum in Haliburton. The short film, which was a passion project that took a year to complete, features seven artists who all got their start in the Highlands such as aspiring cinematographer Rowan Tofflemire, film director and singer Kate Campbell, painter Sophie Creelman, artist Scott Walling and performing artist Brooklyn Sidsworth. The screening event was held on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. Submitted by Tim Tofflemore (Tofflemire Photography)

Library offers mileage rate increase to employees to offset high gas prices

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 16 meeting of the Haliburton County Public Library board.

The rising cost of gas is leaving mileage rates in the dust. Chris Stephenson, Haliburton County Public Library CEO questioned the library's mileage rate, and how to more fairly compensate employees using their own vehicles to drive between branches to cover shifts or make deliveries.

He received about 25 responses to an online inquiry asking fellow library professionals throughout the province about the rates they are offering – one of the lowest he found was 54 cents per kilometre, but they were in the process of petitioning for a higher rate. Stephenson said the National Joint Council rate is 57.5 cents per kilometre, and the Canada Revenue Agency approves a rate of 61 cents. Stephenson said he's aware an increase to the rate would increase the library's mileage budget, which is already triple what it's supposed to be in part because of the library's spread throughout the county, regular delivery twice a week, and staff needing to cover shifts in Highlands East. The library courier will be driving about

1,600 kilometres a month.

He suggested purchasing a library vehicle would help those drivers anxious about driving their personal vehicles for work – currently the library is using a county vehicle until April – and could help to offer services, such as running Wi-Fi from a van visiting Dorset.

County Warden and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen said she had had a similar conversation with the county, which would also be reviewing their mileage policy.

"Having rates that are half of what we're paying for gas, it's not sustainable at all, and it's not fair for staff to have to be out of pocket for something like that," she said. "I think that talking about the purchase of a new vehicle is premature, but I would really recommend highly considering an interim increase, to approve a much higher rate."

The board supported putting something in place to offset costs quickly, due to the significant cost of gas at this time.

"Just as an example, my little Subaru, I could fill for \$50 a few months ago and now it's \$100," said Danielsen. "We can't ask staff to sustain that for any more than they already have."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said a quick Google search of mileage rates showed it's "shocking how low we are at 45 cents."

"I'd like to help folks out sooner rather

than later," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt.

The board supported Stephenson increasing the rate to 59 cents per kilometre, reviewing that in a month's time.

End of mask mandate has frontline staff facing unknown

Stephenson said the province's dropping of the mask mandate has brought new challenges for library staff, who serve the public face-to-face. He said he "strongly encouraged" staff to continue wearing masks to protect each other, as colleagues often work side-by-side, but said the unknown came from patrons who might choose to not wear a mask.

He said the situation was likely to cause stress if there was a need for staff to enforce mask-wearing.

"I'm not willing to do that because I think it puts us in an uncomfortable position with people who are upset about masks," he said.

"It's a touchy subject but I'm just wondering about telling all the staff that they must wear masks," Danielsen said. "It seems to me that at this point in time it's a personal choice, that if they want to wear a mask for their own protection and for others then that's great and, if they don't want to, they shouldn't have to."

"It doesn't just strip us of the authority of enforcing a new policy but it puts the responsibility on an individual," Stephenson said. "We are in a collective workplace and we care about each other, obviously. What I'm proposing to do is strongly encourage. I'm not commanding anyone to do anything."

Stephenson said everyone had the right to refuse unsafe work, though Moffatt noted that would be related to aggressive patrons as opposed to provincial guidelines.

"What I'm trying to avoid, and what I think will be playing out in workplaces everywhere is difference of opinion that's heated," Stephenson said. "I can't control what the public is going to do, but I can encourage staff to care for each other."

He added: "My fear is that if we're in a situation where someone does choose to exercise their personal choice, working alongside someone who feels strongly their safety is at risk, then I might just get a series of Leave of Absence notices and then I'm going to be having a hard time."

Stephenson said he didn't expect the suggestion to be problematic.

"We're in it together, we've been on the frontlines for a very long time now," he said.

Easter weekend closure

Staff shortages have caused the temporary closure of branches in Highlands East, as well as an unsustainable working situation in which administrative staff are covering in branches while also fulfilling their own roles.

Stephenson said the library is heading into the busy time of year in terms of programming, and plans to close all branches on the Saturday of Easter weekend, "to give everybody a chance to catch their breath."

Stephenson said that staff shortages as well as the change in mask mandate regulation is causing stress for all staff.

"I'm gauging the feeling and the vibe in the library right now, and we've got a lot of work to do together," he said. "It's a busy time."

He said offering an extra day off would result in a loss of wages that day for staff, but also boosts morale. He said he could discuss with staff.

"But to be fair, we are having a hard time staffing the branches on Saturday and I can't do six days a week anymore, to keep them open."

The board supported his recommendation.

Stanhope branch remains closed

In his librarians' report, Stephenson said a group of concerned citizens had contacted the library to ask questions about the renovation details of the Stanhope branch, which has been closed since Aug. 2020.

Moffatt told the group that she had been contacted as well. As a result of COVID-19-related supply chain problems due to the pandemic, Moffatt said, reopening is waiting on the delivery of a door.

"There seems to be a misperception that the township has all the pieces and is just sitting on it and putting it on the back burner and I want to say publicly, to assure folks, that is not the case," said Moffatt. "We can't replace a door we don't have in our possession."

She said library services have been available in Dysart and Minden still, and the contractor is working on the pieces they can, at the Stanhope branch.

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'Anxious, a little unsure, but still hopeful': TLDSB director

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Trillium Lakelands District School Board meeting held both in person and virtually on March 22.

"It is good to be back in person," said Wes Hahn, school board director in his director's update, acknowledging much of the board meeting in the same room again. Board members sat distanced from each other with some wearing masks, while a few tuned in virtually.

As the province dropped mask mandates that week, beginning March 21, Hahn said Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) aligned with decisions from the ministry, supporting the personal choice of students, staff and visitors to wear masks in schools.

"We've made it very, very clear that this is a choice for parents and our staff and our students and that we

certainly support that choice, and we will stand behind that," Hahn said. "We know that the superintendents have been discussing that with their administrators, to make sure that everyone feels welcome, whatever decision they make within our building."

Hahn said hand hygiene etiquette, enhanced cleaning, use of HEPA filters, absence reporting to the ministry, rapid antigen tests and vaccination clinics continue.

"We have some challenges ahead, there's no doubt about it," he said. "There's still a lot of anxious feelings in the system. Superintendents this week have been touching base with their administrators, and we've been getting a sense of how the system is feeling with the new changes. Anxiety, sure, being anxious, a little unsure, but still hopeful."

He said, "we want to keep the learning momentum moving forward."

Trustee John Byrne asked if masks are mandatory on school buses, as they are on public transit. Hahn said masks are optional on buses, too.

Right to Read

"Literacy and especially the reading in our system needs a focus," said Hahn, citing two years of working through a pandemic, and for some students, not finding the support they need virtually, as causing challenges.

A Right to Read panel, in which educators from across the school board will join the administration team to share expertise from the classroom is upcoming.

OSSLT results

In an update on secondary school learning, Kim Williams, TLDSB superintendent of learning, said the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, rather than being the "fulsome test that we've had in the past that takes the entire day," was instead shorter and had fewer open-response and longer response items, and more "clicking and dragging."

The success rate of participating students was 74.6 per cent. The OSSLT will be written again in the spring.

County council plans May 11 return to in-person meetings

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 23 committee of the whole meeting and recommended to be approved by county council.

With all provincial restrictions related to COVID-19 precautions ending by April 27, councillors are readying themselves to meet again.

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin was first to express his opinion about when county council should meet again face-to-face – the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 – noting he was ready to meet as soon as possible, especially once all conditions were removed.

"In my mind, there's no reason after that date to do anything but meet in person," he said.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said that something to consider might be how often council meets, suggesting one of the two monthly meetings, while committees continue to meet virtually via Zoom, ensuring a reduction in mileage costs and that those outside of Haliburton County seasonally or for other reasons could still participate.

"Just because we can meet doesn't mean we should be meeting for every single meeting," she said.

County Warden and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen acknowledged that "there remains sensitivities with people," that after a lengthy time of distancing and wearing masks, "whether we like it or not, there are people that need a bit of time to adjust."

Highlands East Councillor Cec Ryall said he disagreed with Devolin, and said the uptick in provincial numbers that might be related to restrictions lifting were of concern to him. He said there's still a large percentage of people wearing masks, though they're no longer mandated, and he is one of them. If council was to meet in April, he said he would meet via Zoom, if possible, or not attend – but that he was more comfortable meeting in May.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said that municipality's council was meeting in person on April 7, with staff attending virtually from their offices in the building via Zoom.

She said that while Zoom was initially new and overwhelming, she thought now "it's part of the way we do business."

Eventually, some people might be attending meetings from their house in Florida, she suggested, noting she personally didn't support that but council had initially decided Zooming in to meetings would be possible in extraordinary circumstances.

Danielsen was in agreement that committees, especially those meeting at night or in poor weather, might still be able to meet virtually.

"I personally have a little bit of an issue of a blended solution, some meeting virtually, some not, but that's just my own thoughts," she said.

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said the situation was tricky with some people being more comfortable than others, but referred to the mask mandate ending at schools last week in which some kids want to wear masks and some won't want to.

"If Councillor Ryall wants to wear a mask or socially distance himself at the meeting, I wouldn't take offence to

it, I would have no problem," she said. "I would have a problem with someone Zooming in unless they had a broken leg, or a really good legitimate reason."

She said that with the province lifting restrictions, she thought council should be doing the same.

"When it comes to council meetings, I think it's time we get back together and keep moving forward and setting an example for the community," she said.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton said that municipality was discussing the possibility of meeting in-person for council, with staff reports and public delegations occurring via Zoom, for about six more months.

Ryall said he didn't want people to think he didn't want to meet in person.

"That's not what I said at all," he said, reiterating he was comfortable meeting in May.

"I think in May we'll have a better understanding," he said. "I'm merely saying that jumping the gun, in my mind, is not the right thing to do."

He said if restrictions were lifted at the end of April, the county's first meeting in May would be the appropriate time to meet.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy was also supportive of meeting in person as a council, with committees meeting by Zoom, and social distancing and mask-wearing being optional.

Moffatt said the cost of gas and the mileage issue was something to consider as well – council had earlier opted to raise the mileage fee (see brief below).

"We're looking at tenders coming in way over price, costs are increasing, we've just raised the mileage fee, let's not all get giddy and jump in our cars," she said, noting it would be best to not put more cars on the road.

The committee of the whole meeting will take place on May 11, with CAO Mike Rutter and IT staff attending in-person, and other staff attending virtually.

Short-term rental survey looking for feedback

Residents will soon be able to offer their perspectives on short-term rentals in the area. A survey looking to garner information on residents' perspectives about short-term accommodations and issues around the venues so that the county can prepare a new short-term rental policy will soon be released after much review from council.

An updated short-term rental community survey was presented to council by J.L. Richards and Associates Ltd. Council with changes made after councillors had scruti-

nized a draft of the survey at a Feb. 23 meeting.

While some councillors had questions still about definitions and clarity of questions within the survey, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said it was a good starting point, offering space for feedback.

"I think we're just trying to get a bit of a snapshot of what are the pros, the cons, the concerns, all of the feelings and perceptions, and this is the public's opportunity to get that back to us."

It's expected to be the first of two surveys released, in order to gain information that will help the county develop a policy that would put regulations on setting up short-term rental businesses.

Mileage rate increase

Councillors approved an amendment to the county's mileage rates policy, increasing the rate from 45 cents per kilometre to 61 cents per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres and 55 cents for distances after, according to Canada Revenue Agency reasonable allowance rates.

In a report from Mike Rutter, county CAO/clerk, he said Haliburton County's CAOs had recently been discussing mileage rates, and that other EOWC municipalities showed Haliburton County's rates are "significantly lower" than others. The Haliburton County Public Library has recently decided to increase their mileage rates, and Dysart et al has directed a review of their policy as well.

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Returning to joy

ATHLETICS OFFERS great highs and lows. On Sunday, March 27, it was a high for Canada when the men's national soccer team advanced to the upcoming World Cup in Qatar with a 4-0 win over Jamaica at BMO field in Toronto, completing their qualifying journey with a 14-1-4 CONCACAF record. It's been a 36 year wait for the national team and the soccer fans in this country that have supported it. Canada's one and only World Cup berth was in 1986.

There was another athletic high, which won't be grabbing national headlines.

It wasn't for a win of any magnitude in the traditional sense, but was a victory for hope, a brighter future, when a co-ed volleyball tournament was held for Grade 8s from elementary schools in Minden and Haliburton held last week in Minden.

It was a beautiful and joyful atmosphere recognized by those that were there for the first indoor sporting event with spectators at an elementary school in Haliburton County. There were boys and girls who smiled, laughed, and held fists in the air, cheering their Grade 8 peers.

Even with just five teams from Haliburton's J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School and Minden's Archie Stouffer Elementary School, the competition was familiar, comprising of friends and friends of friends.

This tournament was more about the opportunity about the moments, to share in the rush of competition, which includes the highs of winning a long rally point to take a tightly contested match, and even the deflation of seeing a ball fall to the ground and losing a close match, than the win-loss records that day.

This isn't the first return to play for elementary school students this school year, but this time it felt different. It may have to do with the appreciation of the competition after a long pause from when some of these ath-

letes played soccer in the autumn, or how there is hope for an end to the pandemic, as it coincides with spring and the inevitable end to the school year only a few months away. Hope is an amazing thing. Belief in something can spur the most discouraged, the despondent.

With the snow blowing by my window at the *Echo* office, its clear spring is still just out of reach, with its gentle breezes and warming sunshine. COVID numbers are rising and there is the potential for another spike. But with the tournament, that was forgotten for an afternoon.

Our current frigid average temperature lately is far from being reflective of the warmth exhibited at the tournament, where supportive adult spectators applauded and smiled, the teachers demonstrative with their instruction and encouragement along the sidelines, and the players embrace of one another or how they delivered high-fives of support to each other.

A post-tournament conversation with one of the teachers, who helped officiate the games, said all the teachers recognized the positive atmosphere and the camaraderie. He pointed out this isn't always part

of the single gender tournaments of the past, so he wondered if co-ed competitions should be the practice.

Children at this age would never say it, but what was on display was the power of love and illustrated the connection we've all lost during this pandemic. This isn't to diminish the family dynamic, but to highlight the best part of school. I remember school for the friends I made, the laughs I shared, and the encouraging interactions with teacher and/or coaches. Grade 8 is an awkward age, with a mix of emotions. Tournaments like what I witnessed provide the moments when children can be themselves in an encouraging environment. It goes a long way to being able to have a core memory that cuts through the confusion that is lasting, deep and joyful.



darren lum

Editorial



Red sky in morning ...

by Darren Lum

Remember the deeper presence of love

IJUST WENT to pick up my husband who had spent the day with his good friend, collecting and boiling sap. So far they have made four litres of maple syrup. They have been outside all day listening to the birds, tending the fire, eating good sandwiches and laughing a lot. They are so happy. They have Canoe FM playing and Sue Shikaze (with her radio show Northern Aire on Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) is encouraging everyone to take a few minutes and dance. So, we are dancing around the wood burning stove. It feels so uplifting to be dancing together. I would say the whole process is filling our hearts. And soon it filled our bellies!

Earlier in the day, I had been leading a yoga workshop and I always start the class with remembering that we do this practice for our own well-being, and for the well-being of all. I said, "The two-legged, four-legged, feathered, those that swim in the ocean and lakes and rivers, those that crawl and bite, those that slither, the rainforests, the deserts, the flowers, the fruits, the vegetables and the weeds." And of course we wish the trees well too.

These trees have roots that go deep down into the earth. The roots are grounding and supporting them. Nourishing them. Their roots have a relationship with all the roots from all trees that are around them. These roots that reach down, so that the magnificent trees can rise up and be their unique beauti-

ful beings in the world. Every tree is unique. It has its own shape and curves and branch structure. Every tree is a collection of living cells, just as we are. When we remember to wish for the well being of all "beings," we are remembering that we are all connected. We all share the same air. We all share the same earth. And as Caroline Myss regularly says in her talks, "what we do to the one we do to the whole."

When we love and respect ourselves we can love and respect all.

When we forget that we are loved and feel disconnected or alone that is when we may suffer. It is important to have a daily reminder that you are connected to the whole of life, and to keep that practice strong. It might be through prayer, journaling, making art, meditation, going to church, being in nature, yoga, qigong, having a quiet reflective reading each

day, etc. When we can take a few minutes every day to be quiet and to remember the deeper presence of love, gratitude and peace that is in us we can hold that for ourselves and for the well-being of all. The sun shines on everything. It doesn't discriminate. What if our love shined for the well-being of all? If everyone remembered this connection, how would the world be? So, as I dance around the fire with my friends, I am so grateful for every maple tree in their yard! I will never take them for granted. And I will remember them every time I have some maple syrup on my pancakes or ice cream!

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Scarry, scarry night

I'M NOT AN expert on Vincent Van Gogh. I know he was a tortured genius and a brilliant painter. I also know he famously cut off his own ear. The most-repeated story was that he did this to prove his love for a woman. But a more recent theory suggests he inflicted the wound after arguing with fellow artist Paul Gauguin. And a newer theory speculates that Van Gogh did this when he heard of his brother's engagement. That brother, it is said, provided emotional and financial support and Van Gogh feared his marriage would threaten this. Interestingly, neither newer theory disputes he gave the amputated ear to a woman he loved. Nevertheless, her reply was, as far as I know, not recorded. Presumably because he didn't hear it.

Regardless, these theories have never sat right with me. Especially since last week I almost accidentally cut off my own ear.

This happened when I was shaving on Tuesday night.

That's when I noticed that there was a fur-bearing creature popping out of each ear. The good news is, after putting on my glasses, I realized this was just a normal amount of wayward ear hair migrating towards sunlight.

Of course, I had the right tools to address this job. Unfortunately, my industrial-strength ear trimmers were just out of reach and my six-bladed shaver was in hand. So, I took a run at my ear hair with all six blades.

First of all, I did not know there were several major arteries in a person's ear. Secondly, although Jenn referred to my injury as "a little boo boo," she only did so because she – like most of us – has not spent a lot of time around partially amputated ears and therefore couldn't recognize one when she saw it. Otherwise, I'm sure she would have passed out instead of giggling and applying the Band-Aid. Thanks to Jenn's lifesaving first aid, however, I will not lose my ear and there will probably be no visible scar. Which is fortunate because my ear lobes are my best feature.

In any case, last Tuesday night between 9 and 9:30 p.m., as I danced on the knife's edge between life and death, it occurred to me that this type of incident might explain Van Gogh's earing loss. Maybe, he too noticed errant ear hair while shaving.

It makes perfect sense, since back then, men shaved with straight razors. Which is not to say that grievous injuries can't happen with safety razors – I still can't wiggle my ears – just that the chance of slicing off your ear with a straight razor is probably greater.

Now imagine you are a struggling artist who has done this. You can do one of two things. You can admit you were clumsy. Or you could take your lopped off ear to a woman you have a crush on. This simple act gets people talking about you and furthers the whole tortured and sensitive soul image, which in the art world is almost mandatory. Better still, it also shows the lady that you are a really bad gift giver. This is particularly important because it means that almost any gift you get her after that will be considered progress. Or better still, she will insist on no more gifts.

That's my theory and, like other Van Gogh ear theorists, I'm considering writing a book on it. So, if you are a publisher and this is of interest to you, give me a call. I'll keep an ear out.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



RCAF Second World War veteran Cliff Maunder. Submitted by Steve Hill of Haliburton Highlands Museum

pic of the past

The Haliburton Highlands Museum believes this is Cliff Maunder with his new 1939 Dodge work truck, who also served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during Second World War. He died in 1943. This picture was taken in the front lot of Saul Bernstein's garage in Haliburton in 1939, which is confirmed by the license plate on the front of the truck. Bernstein was the local Dodge-De Soto agent and his garage was where Algonquin Outfitters is today. Maunder was the Haliburton agent for the McColl-Frontenac Oil Co. Ltd. (which later evolved into Texaco Canada Ltd.) Maunder was originally from Lindsay. He and his wife Verna appear to have established themselves in Haliburton by 1939. They left in 1940, so Maunder could join the RCAF. The house in the background was the home of Haliburton post mistress Dorothy Clarke, who was also the organist at St. George's Anglican Church. Submitted by Steve Hill of the Haliburton Highlands Museum

letters to the editor

Wearing a mask is for everyone

To the Editor,

Where have all the Canadians gone?

There was a time when I had a fair handle on what it meant to be a Canadian. We tolerated each other to a civil degree even when matters of politics or religion caused concerns and ranker. We had each other's backs and supported common sense directions from those in authority again even though we may have had philosophical differences. Take the fact that as children we all lined up for Polio shots and low and behold, Polio is eradicated. I do not remember any freedom fighters in the 1950s.

I am not saying that these values have left our society all together, but those who would press their beliefs (whether supported by facts or not) on others without any consideration or respect seem to be gaining enough momentum that governments are swayed by vote mongering rather than the best interest of Canadian society.

Why am I on this tangent? Well, today the reason was very much foisted on me.

I simply refer to the fact that today I went shopping and because our premier chose to ignore science in favour of appeasing fringe opinion, he has lifted the mandate to wear a mask until we are sure that COVID is not a threat to the majority.

Indeed, we are all tired of COVID and the insanity it has caused, whether by freedom fighters in Ottawa, etc., or the endless fears of COVID.

Quebec has extended its mandates and is acting in accordance with scientific advice on masks, etc. This is obviously the only intelligent decision, especially as the new strain BA.2 is the most virulent of all and filling their hospitals once more. In Ontario, votes and popularity seem more important. At the post office, I was greeted by freedom fighters who were in my face without masks, the grocery store was even more sad as most employees were maskless and some patrons chose to wander around, some coughing and showing their pride in being maskless.

I will continue to wear my approved mask, wash and alcohol cleanse my hands and keep my distance in places obviously cited by the scientists to be COVID hot zones.

To those who choose to ignore my health as well as that of their fellow Canadians, I can only wish you well and, if you know why some of us continue to follow the science rather than our perceived freedoms, I say that I am intent on doing my best to protect myself and even them.

Raymond Selbie
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Open your heart to connection, helping

OPP officer's actions worthy of award nomination by Police Association's

DARREN LUM

Editor

There are heroes among us and sometimes they're given the recognition they don't want, but deserve.

Haliburton Highlands OPP sergeant Paul McDonald was recently nominated for the Police Association's Hero Award, which was possible with letters of nomination by people directly affected by his willingness to listen, be present and contribute to the community.

From a posted message, which prefaced with how police are getting a "bad wrap these last few years," on the Police Association website:

"In July of 2015, my family was shattered by the news of my young brother's passing in a car accident. One of the responding officers was officer Paul McDonald. For almost seven years, I've tried to think of ways to repay him for the love, care, support and service he provided my family and myself the night of and after my brother's unexpected passing. Even though the news wasn't easy to break to my family nor was it easy for us to take, I felt comforted at the same time when officer McDonald told me. He stayed by us to make sure we were getting all the support we needed and helped arrange for us to see my brother before he was taken to the coroners office. Officer McDonald went above and beyond that night and after to make sure my family and I were receiving all the support we needed. I have yet to figure out a way to repay him for everything he has done for us, but I hope that he gets the recognition he deserves for the incredible service he provides to the community. To Officer Paul McDonald, as I write this with tears in my eyes and a very heavy heart, I need you to know that you made an incredibly horrifying situation better. I know there is nothing I can do to repay you for what you have done and continue to do, but I



Paul McDonald of the Haliburton Highlands OPP has been nominated for the Police Association Services Hero of the Year Award. Courtesy of the OPP

thank you very much for being supportive, caring, kind and most of all my hero. We need more officers like you. Thank you."

The OPP officer joined Haliburton Highlands six months ago. He has been an officer for close to 15 years and has worked in Haldimand County, Quinte West/Trenton, and Peterborough, where he was able to secure funding (along with a Canadian Mental Health Worker) for the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) in Peterborough where it went from part-time to a full-time operation during the time he was the mental health liaison officer for the MCIT. This was the

result of looking for a new direction, as a result of his own mental health struggles after many on the job tragedies according to the Association.

Being a fourth generation cop, policing is a family legacy he is proud to continue. This nomination isn't the first time McDonald has been recognized for his service.

He has been the runner-up for a mental health officer of the year award last year and received the Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving in 2011 to name a few examples.

Policing has never been about the recognition. It's always been about the giv-

ing back to the community.

McDonald said the nomination is nice to receive, but it actually embarrasses him to some extent to receive the attention. However, the value of this nomination is about bringing attention to the work and the difference policing can make for a community.

"Just knowing people recognize the contributions in what I do, and just the nominations themselves are what matter to me. It's hard to say because, again, I don't do it for the nominations or the recognition or to win awards. When I win awards I feel kind of embarrassed because it's not what I signed up to do. I just want to make a difference," he said.

His start in policing started when he was 18 after a traumatic experience.

"I really don't want to get into the gist of it, but someone very close to me was sexually assaulted and almost murdered. And the investigating police service that [worked the case] didn't really make that person feel like a victim, but may have made them feel like it was their fault ... and just the whole thing left a bad taste in my mouth. And from that day forward at 18 years old when I got that phone call to help somebody I just said I can do it a lot better than the people I saw doing it before me," he said.

The key aspect to his interactions with people in need is compassion, which is done by employing strong listening skills, to hear what is said and not wait for his turn to speak.

It's "not our opportunity to put our two cents into the conversation. For me, it's an opportunity to listen to what they have to say and just let them know that I'm there. Right, if we take the time, and [not] kind of rush to get onto the next call, so, if we just take our time with the call that we have, we can be more impactful to the victims and the people we serve in our community," he said.

The winners will be announced later this year.

PEI potato surplus comes to Highlands

People who face food insecurity are being given an assist thanks to the Rotary Club of Haliburton, who were able to secure 8,400 pounds of potatoes for the community.

This opportunity came about because of a ban placed on PEI potatoes destined for the U.S. because of the discovery of potato warts in fall 2021. This wart is not harmful to humans when consuming the potato. There are 80 per cent of all PEI potatoes that are exported to the U.S., which created a dilemma for potato farmers, who were facing huge losses because of how they were going to have to destroy much of their crop to make room in storage for the 2022 harvest.

About 10 per cent of the 2021 crop of potatoes from PEI, which amounts to 300 million pounds will be destroyed. The farmers are being given government funding amounting to close to 8.5 cents per pound for potatoes being destroyed. Through the federal government, a program will have 290 million pounds of the surplus diverted to processors, packers, dehydrators, food banks and other markets.

Rotary Club of North Bay member Don Coutts learned of this and then investigated how the Rotary clubs in the 7010 District area could be part of the solution.

A partnership has been created between the potato farmers in PEI, the federal government, Second Harvest Canada and Rotary District 7010.

Local organizations such as the Good Food Box, SIRCH, Point in Time, the Central Food Network, Meals on Wheels, the Haliburton 4Cs, Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre, Lakeside Church, Eagle Lake Community Church, West Guilford Baptist Church, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School are the ben-



Rotary Club of Haliburton members Andrew Hodgson, from left, Gerry Walker, Sue Collings, Irv Handler and Maureen O'Hara show a sampling of the 8,400 pounds of potatoes they were able to secure for the community recently. Due to a ban on PEI potatoes destined for the US, the Rotary Club were able to secure part of the surplus 2021 crop, which would have had to have been destroyed, if not for the federal government's program to purchase PEI potatoes. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

eficiaries.

Special credit goes to former MP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Barry Devolin and brother and Mayor of Minden Hills Township Brent Devolin, who transported the potatoes, and to Haliburton Foodland owner Brad

Park, who is storing the potatoes that will be distributed through the Good Food Box in April.

With files from Irv Handler
- Staff

A.P.E. Training offers Haliburton County option

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

A Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate is raising the bar for fitness and high-performance training with a plan for a new larger location a short drive away in Minden.

Owen Flood, who graduated from the local high school in 2015, is the owner of A.P.E. Training – Athletic Performance Excellence, which is going from its 500-square feet at its 83 Maple Avenue location in Haliburton to a 1,400 square feet location at 150 Bobcaygeon Road (formerly Bwana John's) in Minden. The new location will allow for more free weights, more cardio equipment and even an artificial turf area for fitness movements that require an outdoor-like space. Flood hopes to have the new space operating after Canada Day and believes it can help everyone, particularly high-performance athletes.

"It'll be good for them and their development, right. Because long hours on the road. Stuff like that can be very taxing. So, you might maybe see more people stick with sports and pushing through those hard times when they don't have to travel as much, right? So, it could be just very simple things of just keeping people in [a sport] for longer or, you know, wanting to be healthy more because they have the option to do that. Ten minutes from your house instead of two hours," he said.

He remembers the challenges he faced growing up here as a high performance athlete when it came to his training for junior hockey and as an O-Cup competitor in cycling. Much of his training was independent, with an online component, which included some coaching, but it was less than ideal.

Flood, like many people in the fitness industry, is expecting 2022 to be good year, given that COVID-restrictions limited people's ability to go to gyms for most of the past two years.

"I think things will pop up a bit," he said. "More people will want to do physical activities, whether it's indoors or outdoors – people have been cooped up. Now, things are starting to look up again."

Flood plans to still offer specific training programs for hockey players, but his intention is to expand his services to the general public. A.P.E. Training evolved out of his love for hockey. He was once a Junior C player with the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Dundas Blues. But when his time as a competitive hockey player ended, he began working with other players, to help them perform. He has since connected with several Haliburton County Huskies players and has helped them work on off-season training programs.

But, of course, gyms aren't just for elite athletes. Flood has found that he enjoys helping everyday people learn about fitness.

"I like to see people come in and try to better them-

selves; to be part of that is fulfilling as a trainer," he said. "I think everyone has a reason and not everyone's is the same."

He wants his gym to be a welcoming space, as he believes that gyms should also be an important place for socializing. They provide people with a fun atmosphere, and motivate people to come out.

"It's a good way to meet new people, to keep motivated, to have support. If you're working out at home, it can be tough," he said.

Running a business here was not something Flood thought of when he was attending the high school here. However, the pandemic brought him back. His recent expansion in Minden, only a short drive from where he grew up has already shown him the value of coming home.

He said people have come up to him on the street, congratulating and asking about his service, which is something he wouldn't imagine would happen in a larger centre.

"You wouldn't get that anywhere else. I think that's just more of what's special about it. It's just that people come up to you and talk to you about and show excitement," he said.

For more information on A.P.E. Training visit, www.apetraining.ca.

- with files from Darren Lum

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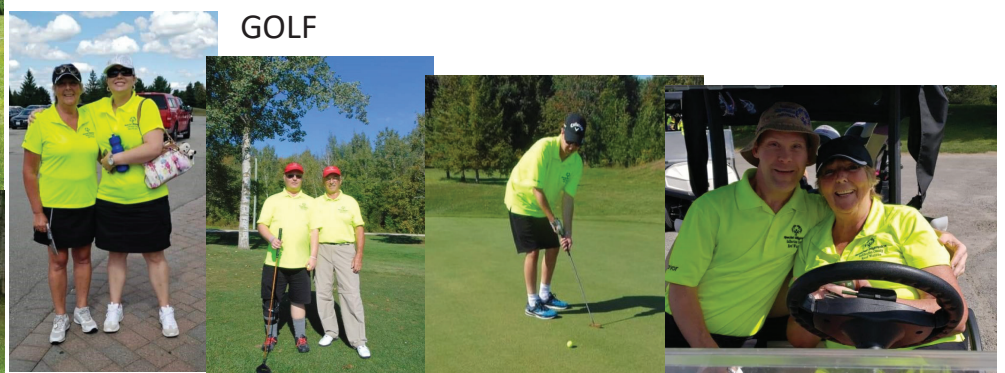
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Bottom's up!

A participant in Spring Splash falls back into the pool of water at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride in Eagle Lake. There were 40 contestants, who attempted to cross the pool of frigid water for the annual event to end the ski hill's season. There were a little more than 200 people at the hill for the day. /Submitted by Vivian Collings



Sir Sam's Ski and Ride drew a few surprises with its annual Spring Splash event, as seen by these two costumed residents Alexis Dacy, as Raven, from left, and Electra Moshenko, as Beast Boy, who are both characters from the Teen Titans TV animated series. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography on Facebook)



Sir Sam's Ski and Ride owner Doug Wilkinson falls forward into the pool during Spring Splash. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography on Facebook)



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumnus Greg Foster takes his chances with his kayak. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography on Facebook)

Fulfilling a dream and making a community proud

DARREN LUM

Editor

Melanie Walter's dream came true last week when she competed at the 2022 Skate Ontario Provincial Championships in Mississauga on March 24.

Walter has been skating with the Minden Skating Club since she was close to five-years-old. Although the top-30 result in a field of 54 Star 5 single women competitors was not the podium finish she envisioned, she returned with perspective and the respect of her coaches.

The experience is not something she will ever forget.

"When I walked through the arena doors I felt like I earned [my place] to be at that competition, and I felt that all my hard work and determination got me here and I felt very proud of myself and very thankful I had an amazing coach by my side ready to help me succeed and a super supportive club back home cheering me on. I heard lots of noise constantly such as cheering, and it was the perfect amount to push me and keep me going throughout the day," she wrote in a message, referring to coach Jane Symons and what she felt, heard and saw at the competition. "When I stepped onto the ice, my heart was beating fast. I was of course a little nervous, but I was ready and I was ready to give it my all at this competition. I tuned out everything around me, and I focused on myself at that point. I felt my music and I skated to how I felt in that moment. I was proud of myself for making it to this competition, as it was my top goal to accomplish in my skating career!"

The provincial berth for the Grade 10 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student was just the second berth for the Minden Skating Club since Janine Garbutt accomplished the feat 25 years ago.

This berth was all the more satisfying, having missed the past two years due to the pandemic. It was something she was proud about, but was also happy to have earned the berth for the supporters in her life, which included her parents, her coaches at the club, the club and the community.

This was her third attempt to reach the provincials. She credits coaches such as Jane Symons, Guy Gordon and David Hollows for the foundation of her figure skating and her present skill set. She said the difference this time compared to the last time she attempted to make the provincials was her focus on her conditioning and preparation. At a glance, a two-minute skating routine doesn't seem difficult, but it's an all out effort, demanding mental focus and physical fitness. She acknowledges her advanced physical maturity, which came from her rep volleyball play in Orillia this year and her running regimen – five kilometres a day for five days a week.

"I've worked towards it my whole life and it was one of my goals. And, I'm glad I reached it before the end my [time at] high school," she said.

Coach Symons said Walter was initially disappointed by the provincial result, which was influenced by the deduction during Walter's skate, which wasn't implemented as severely as in other competitions.

"Melanie felt bad after she skated saying that she had let Minden down and I quickly told her, on the contrary, you put us on the map and we couldn't be more proud," she wrote in a text.

Symons said there is room for improvement, but was happy with the figure skater she has coached for the past 10 years.

"Dave Hollows and Guy Gordon and myself have worked with Melanie as a team these last few years. I started teach-



Minden Skating Club's Melanie Walter shows the third place medal she won at a figure skating competition in Milton earlier this month to earn her provincial berth. Walter, who is the first skater from the club in 25 years to go to the provincials since Janine Garbutt, competed among the top women skaters (in STAR 5 in the province) on Thursday, March 24 in Mississauga. /DARREN LUM Staff

“

I felt my music and I skated to how I felt in that moment. I was proud of myself for making it to this competition, as it was my top goal to accomplish in my skating career!”

— Melanie Walter

ing Melanie when she was about five years old and have watched her blossom as a skater. Unfortunately for me she's very good at many sports, so I don't get her as often as I'd like. LOL. Melanie did miss one spin in her program that she never misses and so lost a bit of a mark on that, but otherwise I was very pleased. There's no continuation from all-Ontario's, but [with] the last two years of COVID it was nice to see so many kids out trying their best to represent their clubs. Hopefully she will continue to work on technique and perhaps return to the championships next year. It's too far away to determine."

Walter has always loved skating and that won't ever change.

"I love I can be myself out on the ice. I don't have to worry about any problems off the ice and it feels like home," she said.



Melanie Walter performs a sit-spin during practice the day before the provincials.

Storm U18 take value in overcoming odds

[I'm] proud of my under-18 team. We were not projected to win many games this year. We struggled with numbers and ended up with just enough to make a team. We filled our spots with a lot of first year and inexperienced hockey players. We ended up two games above .500 this season, including all exhibition, regular season and tournament play, so I was very happy with that. We played many teams stacked with third year, AAA and AA players. We held our own and battled every game. We surprised a lot of parents, board members and fans. Ron Hall, Scott Coles and manager Trisha Phippen were an amazing coaching staff that understood the game plan and supported my coaching philosophy. Our playoff team record was three wins, two losses and a tie putting us in third place out of seven teams. The top two teams moved on to the OMHA (Ontario Minor Hockey Association) finals in Barrie.

Submitted by head coach Darryl Winder



Highland Storm under-18 hockey goalie Jacob Dobson stops a Brock Wild player's shot during Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoff action on Tuesday, March 23 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Storm beat the Wild 5-2, with the game-winner by Cooper Coles, a hat-trick by William Craftchick and one by Aiden Perrott. /DARREN LUM Staff



Highland Storm under-18 players Ty Mills, from left, and William Craftchick celebrate during Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoff action.



Highland Storm under-18 hockey player Ty Mills crashes to the ice after colliding with a Brock Wild defender.

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Andy Campbell
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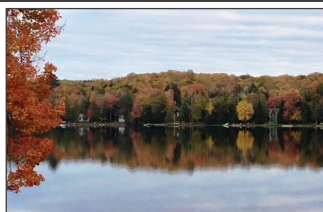
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- 2 Properties w/ Clean Shoreline
- 5 Lake Chain w/ 2 Marinas



Tom Ecclestone*
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Kashagawigamog Lake \$1,495,000

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Lindsay Elder**
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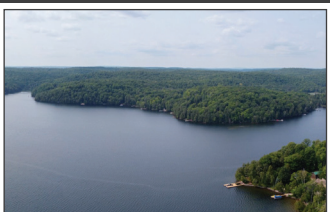
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Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

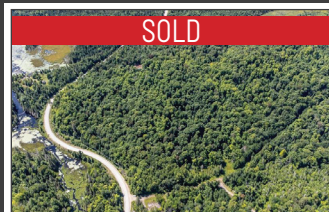
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- Registered Plan of Subdivision
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Karen Nimigon**
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- -Spectacular Rippled Sand Shoreline, West Exposure, 2-Lake chain



Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

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Darlene Reil*
447-2055

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Christine Sharp*
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Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Mountain Street

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Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

County Road 21 \$750,000

- Commercial property in Haliburton
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Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

County Road 121

- 3 Brdm / 1 Bath
- 1.5 Acres



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Chalet Rd

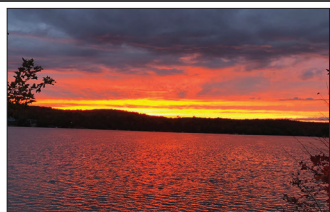
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Jim Allder*
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Cheering the return

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School (JDHES) volleyball player Chase Winder receives a serve during a tournament at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) on Thursday, March 24 in Minden. The field included five teams of Grade 8 girls and boys from the Haliburton elementary school and ASES, who got to play in front of spectators inside the school since the start of the pandemic./DARREN LUM Staff



JDHES players Jordanna Jennings, from left, and Oliva Gruppe cheer on peers during a tournament at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

JDHES volleyball player Abby Schreuber-Newlove volleys.



JDHES volleyball player Hazel Jones smiles before serving.

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Huskies downed by Dukes, blank Golden Hawks in biggest weekend of season

ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Echo

With a shot at first place, the Haliburton County Huskies' playoff seeding became more complicated after a loss to the Wellington Dukes on Saturday and a win against the Trenton Golden Hawks on Sunday.

With three games remaining in the regular season, the Huskies will need to be perfect if they want to have a shot at first place.

On Saturday, March 26, the first place Dukes were in town and with Huskies' starting goalie Christian Cicigoi still out of the lineup, it was up to backup Christian Linton to put on another good performance. Riding 8 straight wins, the Huskies looked to cap off a perfect March with only their second win against the Dukes. However, Emmet Pierce had other plans.

After Joe Boice and Ryan Hall were both given penalties for head contact and cross-checking, the Dukes got to work. First, it was David Campbell beating Linton on a tip shot screen in front of the net. Then Pierce beat Linton on a good old fashioned one timer, and the Huskies found themselves down 2-0.

In the second period, the Huskies Christian Stevens finally figured out Ethan Morrow on a Peyton Schaly one timer to pull the Dogs within one. Before the period was over, Jacob Vreugdenhill buried another one timer from Pierce and the two goal lead was restored.

The third period saw three goals, one by Wellington's Jonathon Balah and a second by Pierce to tally his 40th of the season. The only Huskies goal came from

Haliburton's own Ryan Hall, to scored his second of the season on a point shot.

With the eight game win streak snapped, the Huskies' quest for the first overall spot got a lot harder and made Sunday's matinee against Trenton that much more important. With Cicigoi returning to the lineup, he played the game of his life.

With no scoring in the first period, the fans in the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena would have to wait until period two to see some goals. Lucas Stevenson buried a brilliant feed from Will Gourgouvelis to put the Huskies up 1-0, then a few minutes later came the potential goal of the year.

Cam Kosurko used his jets to beat Nathan Oickle on the breakaway, missing the net on the initial try he circled back around. Not giving up, he flat-footed Oickle and Austin D'Orazio

and tucked the puck under Taylor in an amazing individual effort. A short-handed goal for Kosurko, put the Huskies up with a two goal advantage heading into the third.

One of the league's best offensive defensemen Simon Rose got to work less than two minutes in, burying another goal to cap off his impressive 10 game stretch for the Huskies. Finally, Nick Athanasakos put the puck into the empty net to seal the 4-0 shutout win for the Huskies.

Cicigoi made a 43 save shutout in his first game back from injury, while Kosurko was buzzing during the post-game autograph session.

"I missed the first chance and it bounced off the glass," Kosurko said. "I corralled it and then put the puck in. It helps that the crowd is really into it, it puts the energy into me and I can do

what I do out there."

With three games left in the regular season, each game is so much more important. Despite two games left against the last place Mississauga Chargers, coach Ryan Ramsay said post game that even the Chargers can't be taken for granted.

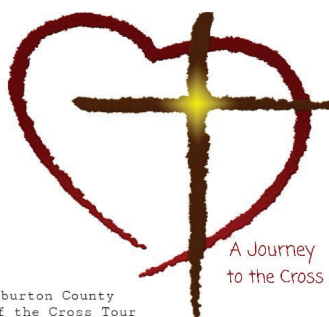
"We got three games left," Ramsay said. "We need those points and sometimes it can be hard playing a team that has nothing to lose. We gotta stay focused and we can beat anyone in the league if we play our game. We gotta show up and stick to the game plan."

Those final three games in question come Tuesday the 29th in Mississauga, Saturday April 2 in Minden and finally Sunday April 3 in Wellington. Should the Huskies win all three they will finish the season with 73 points and a shot at first place.

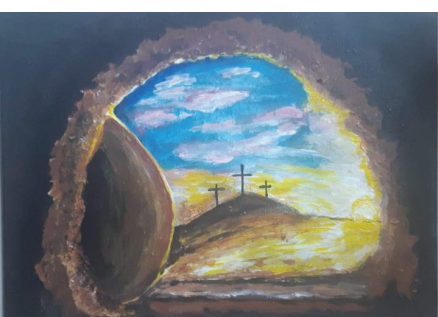


Appreciation for billet hosts

The Haliburton County Huskies honoured billet hosts in Haliburton County with an appreciation presentation before the start of the team's game on March 26 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /Submitted by Alex Gallacher



Haliburton County
Stations of the Cross Tour



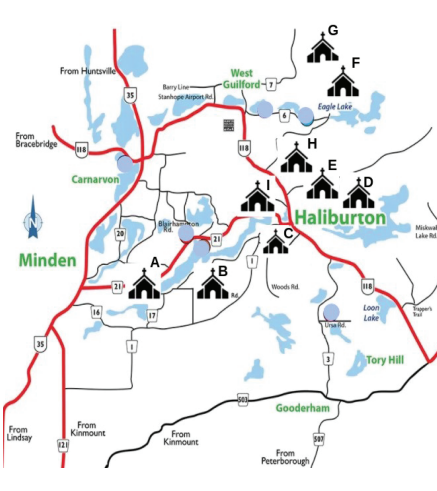
Friday April 1—Monday, April 18, 2022

Join us in celebrating the life-changing power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection through the second Haliburton County Stations of the Cross Tour! It is the hope of the local Church of Haliburton County that individuals and families could enjoy a tour of our beautiful region, while taking time to reflect and prepare our hearts for this season of Easter. During the weeks of Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 18, 2022, individuals and families can tour around our local, participating churches to view various outdoor installations of local art that represent the story of Jesus' Journey to the Cross.

Enjoy the Tour which serves as a beautiful intersection of faith and art.

For a tour guide, map and more information visit:

www.mylakeside.ca/sochaliburton



Stations of the Cross Tour 2021:

- A) 1: Ingoldsby United Church, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden
- B) 2: Lochlin United Church, 1050 Lochlin Rd., Minden
- C) 3: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St., Haliburton
- D) 4 & 5: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton
- E) 6: St. Anthony's of Padua Mission Church, 27 Victoria St. Haliburton
- F) 7: Eagle Lake Community Church, 2605 Eagle Lake Rd., Eagle Lake
- G) 8 & 9: West Guilford Baptist Church, 1063 Nila Rd., West Guilford
- H) 10 & 11: Northland Faith Church, 13321 Hwy. 118, Haliburton
- I) 12, 13 & 14: Lighthouse Pentecostal Church/Lakeside Church, 9 Park St. Haliburton



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT An electronic meeting will be held April 11th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

The media and the general public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel which can be found on the County's website by searching the land division committee (<https://youtu.be/XNKyqYINWPI>).

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-004/22 (Hammerhead Holdings Inc.), Property Location: Pt Lot 3, Conc 13, GTWP of Snowdon (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way
2. File No. H-006/22 (Colpitts & Ecclestone), Property Location: Pt Lot 20, Conc 10, GTWP of Lutterworth (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way
3. File No. H-020/22 (Fletcher), Property Location: Conc 11, Pt Lots 9 & 10, GTWP of Lutterworth (MH), Purpose: Right-of-way

Additional information regarding the above applications is available for public inspection electronically by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills on March 25, 2022.

Michele Moore
Acting Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P.O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 239
Fax: (705) 286-4829
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. North American people
 - 6. Chinese surname
 - 10. Fit in at the last minute
 - 14. "Very" in musical terminology
 - 15. Underwater displays
 - 17. Crosby's bandmates
 - 19. Belong to he
 - 20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)
 - 21. Sequences of alternating turns
 - 22. Genus of grasses
 - 23. Satisfy
 - 24. Petty quarrel
 - 26. Made level
 - 29. Ruler of Iran
 - 31. Historical region of Syria
 - 32. Food suitable for babies
 - 34. Something to lend
 - 35. Zone of oceanic trenches
 - 37. Philippine island
 - 38. Domesticated animal
 - 39. Plant of the lily family
 - 40. Bluish green
 - 41. __ Tomei, actress
 - 43. Without (French)
 - 45. Lilly and Manning are two
 - 46. Apply pressure to
 - 47. Divide in half
 - 49. Bad deed
 - 50. Don't know when yet
 - 53. Hollywood's greatest honor
 - 57. Aiming to exhort
 - 58. Faked
 - 59. A way to pierce
 - 60. Midway between northeast and east
 - 61. Points
- 5. Afflict
 - 6. Type of area rug
 - 7. Tide
 - 8. Affirmative
 - 9. Sudden change
 - 10. One picked
 - 11. Debauched man
 - 12. Stiff bristles
 - 13. Famous arena
 - 16. Established rules and methods
 - 18. Injection
 - 22. Father
 - 23. Protein-rich liquids
 - 24. He delivers gifts
 - 25. Advanced degree
 - 27. Fencing swords
 - 28. Chinese mountain range
 - 29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
 - 30. Precursor to hemoglobin
 - 31. Much __ about nothing
 - 33. Compound fabric (abbr.)
 - 35. A way to act slowly on
 - 36. Ottoman military commanders
 - 37. Popular kids' network
 - 39. Hard compound
 - 42. Sympathize with
 - 43. Northeast college
 - 44. Blood group
 - 46. Frosted
 - 47. Turn away
 - 48. Benefit
 - 49. Dry or withered
 - 50. Bangladeshi monetary unit
 - 51. Reproduced
 - 52. Contributes
 - 53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
 - 54. Wear
 - 55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)
 - 56. Very small

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Chop up
 - 2. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 3. Egyptian goddess
 - 4. Split pulses

Answers on page 17



With Trenton Golden Hawks forward Dalton Bancroft, from left at front, and Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Nathan Porter taking the ceremonial faceoff, MP Jamie Schmale drops the puck with Huskies owner Paul Wilson before the start of the game on Sunday, March 27 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /Submitted by Alex Gallacher

OJHL playoffs explained

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

The playoff format for the 2022 Nutra-farms OJHL Championship Series has been announced. A four round playoff format will see the winner of the Buckland Cup head directly to Estevan, Saskatchewan to compete in the national tournament.

Due to the close points tally in the East division the Haliburton County Huskies will lock up either the first, second, or third seed, which will mean three possible first round matchups. Beginning on April 10, the Huskies realistically could face the four place Cobourg Cougars should they nab the first seed, or should they lock up the second or third seed a meeting with either the Trenton Golden Hawks or Wellington Dukes await. This opening round will be a best of three series, with the Huskies overall best division head-to-head record coming against the Cobourg Cougars with four wins, one loss and one tie.

Should the Huskies advance from the first round they will start the OJHL divisional finals, beginning on April 16. The higher seeded team will have home ice advantage, with a best-of-five series. Moving on from there, the Huskies will play in the OJHL conference championships, beginning on April 22. This round will be another best of five series, against the winner of the South division.

Finally, should the Huskies go all the

way they will move onto the 2022 Nutra-farms OJHL Championship Series beginning on May 2. Competing with the winners of the opposing North-West conference, the Buckland Cup will be on the line in a grueling best of seven game series. With all nine league winners moving on, if the Huskies win the Buckland they will not need to compete in the regional championships which was due to be hosted by the Superior International Junior Hockey League (SIJHL).

The Centennial Cup championship will feature the Estevan Bruins as the host team as well as the winners from the SIJHL, OJHL, Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League (NOJHL), Central Canada Hockey League (CCHL), Maritimes Hockey League (MHL), Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL), Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL), Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) and finally the Ligue de Hockey Junior du Quebec (LHJQ). The British Columbia Hockey League withdrew their membership from the Canadian Junior Hockey League (CJHL) governing body and will not be competing at the tournament.

As the seeding is still unclear, official dates for the Huskies first round play-off games haven't been finalized yet. The Huskies have three more games left (one home, two away), with the final two away games coming against the Mississauga Chargers and the Wellington Dukes and the final home game versus the Chargers.



WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

**Tickets are now available for purchase
1 hour prior to puck drop at the door.**

**April 2 @ 4:30 p.m.
vs Mississauga Chargers**

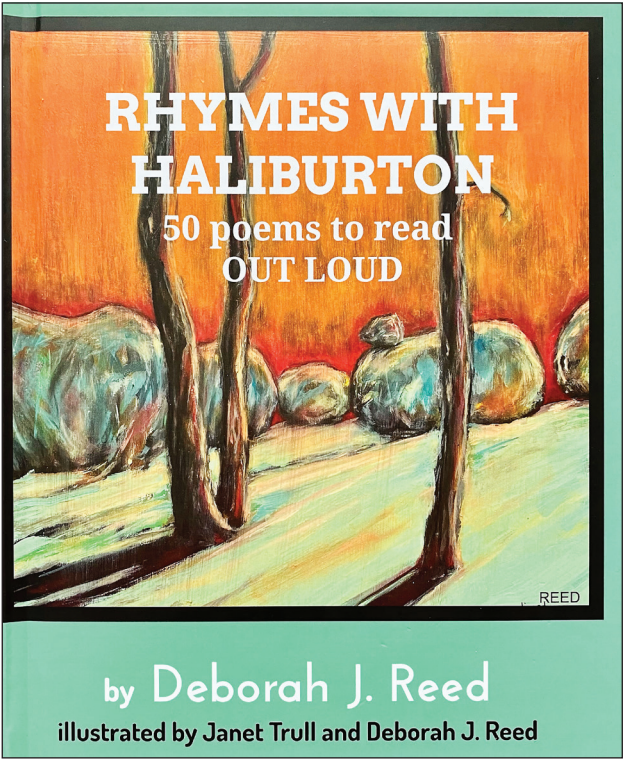
Creativity on cellphone central to new book of poems

County Life contributor Deborah J. Reed compiles poems for book

Local resident, Deborah J. Reed, has called Haliburton home for the last five years. Retirement from big city teaching and being directly near woods and sky have revitalized her fondness for writing and painting. Shortly after she moved here, Deborah began to compose poetry on her cellphone. Her first effort, *The Golden Tree*, developed over a four-and-a-half hour southbound bus ride, which she repeated every Friday in order to visit her mum in a long-term care facility in Toronto. A writer friend from Algonquin Highlands suggested that Deborah send this inaugural 'bus poem' (about the yellowing tamaracks she spotted from her favourite window seat) to *County Life* for possible publication. Deborah has been generating almost weekly "hymns" to the Highlands ever since through the weekly publication, which has published every single one of them, whether it's in blank verse, couplets, sonnets, song or rhyming stanzas. After producing two illustrated smaller books of single poems (*Field Hooky* and *Ontario Wizard*), Deborah has now completed a third book, *Rhymes with Haliburton*. It's a hardcover collection of 50 original read-aloud poems divided into four connected themes. Much of its content was influenced during three long winters of the COVID pandemic, where social isolation unleashed unexpected creativity in many of us. Deborah was simultaneously developing a deeper appreciation of the multi-coloured outdoors here, now constantly within sensory reach. Her new poetry collec-

tion also glistens with vivid original illustrations. She combines her own watercolour and acrylic paintings with the work of talented local writer/ artist Janet Trull, who is equally grateful for all her creative inspiration here. Trull is also a regular contributor to *County Life* like Deborah. *Rhymes with Haliburton* is now available for purchase at Masters Book Store, The Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre, or from Deborah herself. Submitted by Deborah J. Reed

Rhymes with Haliburton is a new book of her poetry by poet Deborah J. Reed, which includes artwork by Janet Trull. Reed and Trull are regular contributors to *County Life*. / Submitted by Deborah J. Reed



The spring water runs free

community news
west guilford
Eleanor Cooper
754-2278


On the east side of the house there is a ditch, which in spring is full of water. On March 20, it was flowing and filled from the melting snow, which came from the golf

course's slope at the east end, and from a slope where a bush is on the south side, all day long. From the time the ice melted until dusk, the creek ran full as it rushed to meet the larger ditch before it ran furiously into the culvert under the driveway to pour into the huge culvert under Highway 118. The flow was much less the next day as snow melted quickly. Brown patches began to show, which are green now. Did we ever doubt the spring? Impatient as we are, we know that buds will show and hope of blooms brings a smile to the lips and hope to the longing hearts as we see spring happening.

Shriner legacy

The Algonquin Shrine Club's long-time noble Keith Irving of Bird's Creek, who is represented by cousin Judy Irving, in red, centre, presented a \$10,000 cheque to the Algonquin Shrine Club last week, as part of a legacy donation outlined in Keith's will. Present for the presentation were Algonquin nobles Wayne Wiggins, from left, Dave Earle friend of Judy, at the left, its president noble Jim Burke, right of Judy, and noble Dean Linton. The club includes residents, who live in the Highlands. Photo submitted by Charles Mullett





REQUEST FOR TENDERS

OPERATION OF THE CONCESSION BOOTH AT THE A.J. LaRUE ARENA
2 Year Contract
July 1, 2022 to June 15, 2024

The Municipality of Dysart et al is requesting tenders for operation of the concession booth at the A.J. LaRue Arena. Tenders must be received on or before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

ADVERTISING ON ICE RESURFACER AT THE A.J. LaRUE ARENA
3 Year Contract
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025

The Municipality of Dysart et al is requesting tenders for advertising on the Ice Resurfacer at the A.J. LaRue Arena. Tenders must be received on or before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Specifications and Tender Forms can be obtained at the Dysart Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, ON.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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**Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
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1 Staff SEASONAL (June-Sept, 2022)**

Responsibilities

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- Do a daily 'town run' to pick up supplies that are needed for camp programs or office.
- Pick up supplies in Toronto (or outside of Minden/Haliburton) as needed.
- Handling of incoming and outgoing mail.
- Ensure that vehicles are scheduled and taken for oil changes as needed.
- Ensure the vehicles have adequate gas and fill as necessary.
- Keep vehicles clean and free of garbage.
- Keep the exterior of the vehicles clean; have them washed as needed

Necessary Qualifications/Competencies

- Full G License & minimum age of 21 years old
- Ability to have a flexible schedule and work independently
- Attention to detail
- Ability to work and communicate with a wide variety of people

**30 – 40 Hr work week
June – September Contract**

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19. All Staff are required to be Two Dose Vaccinated against Covid 19 before their contract begins.

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

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Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'G' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract.

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Laura Casey, Manager of Payroll and HR
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday, April 8th, 2022

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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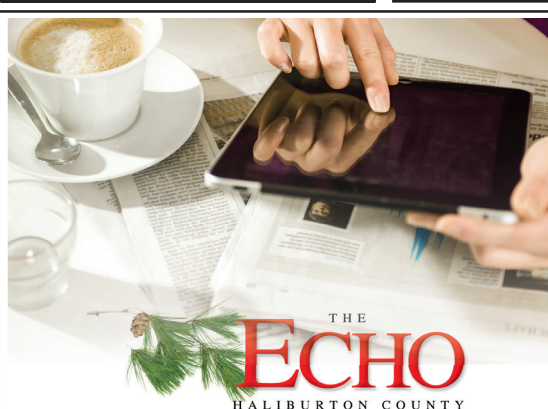
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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

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*Dysart council balks at opening up
municipal roads for ATV travel*

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*Red Hawks fly to London, Ont. to compete
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Tuesday, March 16, 2004
Vol. 121 No. 13
\$1 including GST

Doctors' clinic, housing complex planned

*Developer proposes
100-unit retirement
community between
Industrial Park Rd.
and Halbiem Cres.*

SKERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Plans to build a commercial plaza in the area where the late Dr. Harry Good's house sits overlooking the river leading to Grass Lake have been abandoned but a new proposal would see the construction of a new doctors' clinic that would be connected to a 100-unit retirement community.

In February last year a proposal for a 64,000 square foot commercial building on 9.5 acres was put forward by the Otis Group of Companies out of Toronto. A public meeting in the Dysart et al council chambers was packed with people voicing their opposition to having the area rezoned from residential to commercial. The most frequent objection was that Haliburton did not need more retail space outside of the downtown core when there were empty storefronts on the main street. The property was, however, rezoned and then the proposal was abandoned. Philip Otis did not return a phone call from the *Echo* asking for an explanation.

Last week, a new developer, Dr. Daniel Perlitz of Dravidian

See **Doctors'** page 4



MARTHA PERKINS/PHOTO

When Irish eyes are singing

Margaret Jeske and her Gentlemen of Song delighted the crowd at the St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Friday. As dozens of people filled the Haliburton Legion to enjoy Irish stew and biscuits to raise money for the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary, the men's choir brought a touch of the Emerald Isle to the festivities with their rendition of traditional Irish music.

Maple syrup producers get tax reprieve

Industrial assessment would have put an end to 'mom and pop' operations

JERRY GROZELLE
Staff Reporter

Local maple syrup producers are breathing a collective sigh of relief. The provincial government has announced that it will not implement the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's recommendation to tax maple syrup producers at industrial tax levels.

The MPAC recommendation would have meant a huge increase in taxes to maple syrup producers and put most "mom and pop" operations out of business.

"We have taken immediate steps to address the concerns of maple syrup producers," said Finance Minister Greg Sorbara in a news release issued Wednesday. "We are listening to people's concerns about the importance of consistent and timely application of assessment and classification policies by the MPAC."

Maple syrup producers faced a change in classification from farm to industrial for the 2004 taxation year.

"We will continue to work with these groups and Ontarians to come up with

property tax assessment solutions that work," Sorbara said.

The news release said that the government is calling on MPAC, maple syrup producers and representatives of the broader farming community to develop mutually-acceptable criteria for deciding what constitutes industrial production of maple syrup.

"The government will also work with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other agricultural groups to establish clarity in agricultural definitions for the purpose of property classification, said

Steve Peters, Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Tom Dawson has a small family maple syrup production called Wintergreen on Haliburton County Road 1 near Gelert.

"That needed to happen," was his initial comment when he learned that the government had decided not to change the taxation structure as planned. "It was causing all kinds of problems."

Dawson said he has spoken at length to policy directors at MPAC. "They have tried this

See **Assessment** page 2

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PRIVACY AND A POOL \$625,000



Wonderfully private location backing onto a mature forest for hours of wildlife watching.

Enjoy the babble of the year round creek or take a dip in your in-ground swimming pool.

Beautifully renovated, enjoy the warmth of wood underfoot and the space of cathedral ceilings overhead. With 3 bed, 2 bath and a detached garage, there's plenty of room for sleepy guests and all your stuff.

This rare gem is turn-key and ready to go!



NEW LISTING

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS \$388,000



This 2490 sqft multi-level side split home features 4 bed, 2 bath, main level laundry room, and plenty of living space.

Ideal for a family looking to put their own touches and prepared to do some updating, or a professional looking for their next project. Located in a quiet neighbourhood, within walking distance to the hopping town of Haliburton!



PRIME WITH POTENTIAL \$945,000



Wonderfully private, south-west facing and ready for seasons of family fun. The level and grassy lot has fantastic swimming off the dock and sandy beach. 3 bdrm, 2 bath with large open concept kitchen, living room, and dining room. Take things outside and enjoy bug-free meals in the screened-in room, and finish off with sunset sips on the new west-facing porch. Unlike the incredible memories you'll make here, this much sought-after property won't last long.



Linda Baumgartner - Broker | Owner

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